Ripped from the ROUNDUP

Ripped straight from the pages of old Space News Roundups, here's what happened at JSC on this date:

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The Congressional Medal of Honor Society of the United States honored NASA recently for "making America first in space."

Dr. Thomas O. Paine, NASA Administrator, accepted a plaque on behalf of NASA and kindred organizations, which have played a part in "placing America first in the space program."

The presentation was made by Dr. Eli Whitely, president of the CMHS, which is made up of recipients of the nation's highest award for valor, the Medal of Honor.

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The space shuttle's nose wheel steering capability, used only on an experimental basis thus far in the program, is expected to be upgraded to fully operational status by this fall.

Until that capability becomes operational on the vehicles in the shuttle fleet, NASA intends to choose between the Kennedy Space Center and Edwards AFB as the primary end-of-mission landing site on a flight-by-flight basis.

The use of nose wheel steering, NASA said, would allow the shuttle pilots to use the brake system for stopping Orbiters, rather than for braking and steering combined.

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NASA will return to the satellite rescue business on the Space Shuttle *Endeavour*'s maiden voyage, attaching a new booster to the stranded Intelsat.

The plan for the mission, baselined as STS-51 in February 1992, calls for *Endeavour*'s crew to rendezvous with the satellite, attach a new booster and re-deploy the spacecraft and boost it so that it can complete its trip to geostationary orbit 22,300 miles above the Earth.

The rescue scenario has *Endeavour* carrying a 20,000-pound booster motor in a cradle up to Intelsat. Using the robot arm, the as yet unnamed crew will bring the satellite into the orbiter's payload bay where space-walking crewmembers will attach the satellite to its new booster.

NASA flight surgeon receives Ward Memorial Award

Dr. Jeffrey A. Jones was awarded the Julian E. Ward Memorial Award at the 71st Annual Scientific Meeting of the Aerospace Medical Association held May 14-18, 2000, in Houston, due to his outstanding performance during his NASA/University of Texas Medical Branch residency. As a result, he stepped from resident to NASA flight surgeon in seamless fashion. His specific expertise in radiation has been recognized, and is proving to be vital as NASA plans exploratory class missions.

Jeffrey Jones

Dr. Jones earned a bachelor of arts degree in biology and psychology from Trinity University, San Antonio, in 1981; a medical degree from Baylor College of Medicine in 1984; and a master of science degree in preventive medicine and community health from University of Texas Medical Branch in 1981. He graduated with high honors from the USAF Aerospace Primary Course at Brooks Air Force Base, Texas, in 1996, and completed Hyperbarics Medicine Training for Health Care Officers in 1997.

In 1997, he co-chaired a session on biomedical issues for a Mars mission at the 12th Man in Space Symposium and presented a paper at the International Conference on Life Support and Biosphere Science Meeting.

In 1998, he organized a plenary panel on Life Sciences Issues in Mars Exploration and spoke on surface operations during the founding convention of the Mars Society, and was an invited speaker on Shuttle Emergency Medical Response at Brooke Army Medical and on military aviation medicine at the Pushing the Envelope III Symposium.

He wrote and presented two original papers at the Aerospace Medical Association Annual Meeting in 1998 – one on neck injuries in high-performance aircraft pilots and the other on reducing bioeffects of space radiation.

Currently, Dr. Jones is flight surgeon and acting operational radiation biologist for Medical Operations, Medical Sciences, at the Johnson Space Center. His duties include: co-chair of the Multilateral Medical Operations Panel Countermeasures and Monitoring Working Group, flight surgeon representative to the Multilateral Medical Operations Panel Radiation Health Working Group, International Space Station flight surgeon, and flight surgeon for both the Crew Return Vehicle Design Project (X-38) and the Human Exploration and Development of Space Project (Mars Exploration Medical Team, Advanced Medical Technologies). He is a member of the NASA/JSC Institutional Review Board and Tiger Team member for development of the International Space Station urinary monitoring system and improved collection interface device. ■

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ATLANTIS

States-built backup communications system. All of the new internal and external equipment has been checked out and is in excellent condition.

The crew unloaded more than 3,000 pounds of gear from *Atlantis* during the six-day linkup with the ISS. Subtracting equipment removed from the station and stowed aboard *Atlantis*, the net change in mass for the station is about one additional ton. Along with the new electrical equipment installed, the crew also stowed supplies for future crews aboard the ISS including 46 gallons of water in four bags, a treadmill, an exercise bicycle ergometer, and a resistive exercise device as well as sewing kits, trash bags, clothes, tools and a small-scale model of the ISS, among other items.

Also, Halsell and Horowitz gave the ISS a boost. Using the steering jets in gentle, hour-long maneuvers over the course of three consecutive days, they raised the station's orbital altitude by 27 miles. The station is now in the optimum orbit to await the arrival of the next major station component – the Russian Service Module, which will serve as the crew's living quarters.

Atlantis undocked from the orbiting ISS outpost at 6:03 p.m. CDT on May 26, as the two spacecraft flew more than 230 miles above Kazakhstan in Central Asia.

Left in orbit is the renovated ISS, which station flight controllers report is functioning in excellent condition. The station is orbiting at an altitude of about 238 statute miles, awaiting arrival of the Russian "Zvezda" Service Module. It is scheduled for a mid-July launch on a modified Proton rocket from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. The ISS will automatically rendezvous and dock with "Zvezda" about two weeks after the new module is placed in orbit.

Atlantis is being processed for the next shuttle flight, STS-106, in early September to return to the ISS with another crew for the outfitting and supply of the newly arrived Service Module. ■

Continued from Page 4

STORM

from hurricanes, most likely forming in the right front quadrant.

"Every year, we, the members of the HRT, are exposed to more information on the behavior and destructibility of hurricanes," said Roeh, "and each year I am more convinced that advanced planning not only by organizations but by individuals is needed to survive this threat safely. The potential catastrophic effect

of a Category 4 or 5 storm in this area is almost beyond comprehension. Harris County predicts damage in the range of $18 billion to $30 billion should it receive a hit from a Category 4 storm."

Your safety depends on your response. If a hurricane threatens, keep listening to your local radio or television for the latest advisories and instructions from local officials. The first rule to remember is that if you are advised to evacuate, do so immediately. Evacuation is a lifesaving means of protecting yourself and your family. Be prepared. Fill your car's gas tank early. ■

All good things come to those who wait…

Hundreds of JSC employees and space enthusiasts waited their turn to have former JSC Flight Director Gene Kranz sign copies of his new book, *Failure Is Not An Option.* *Shown* here, Mary Wylie meets the author in Bldg. 32 auditorium.

NASA JSC Photo 2000-04593
by James Blair